

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 8 remain in this application. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Obeshaw (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0106468). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Obeshaw discloses a structural member that is lightweight and has sufficient mechanical strength for use in such applications as the structure of vehicle parts (See paragraph [0096]). Obeshaw is not directed to hollow pipelines for transportation of fluids and therefore is non-analogous art. This is further supported by the fact that Obeshaw discloses that the core region 10 of the structural member may be partially or completely filled with foam, plastic, conducting or insulating materials, metals, etc. (For example, see paragraph [0015]). Nowhere does Obeshaw disclose or even suggest the use of the structural member for transportation of hydrocarbons or other fluids, let alone such transportation in ultra-deep water.

Furthermore, Obeshaw does not disclose the use of polypropylene or cement as the material for the intermediate layer as claimed in present claim 1. Instead, Obeshaw discloses that its intermediate layer 6 is a honeycomb or ribbed structure that spaces and supports the inner portion 4 and outer portion 8.

For these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Obeshaw. Claims 2, 6, and 8, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also patentable. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Motsenbocker, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 2,419,278, hereinafter "Motsenbocker"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Motsenbocker fails to disclose polypropylene, ceramic materials, polymers, or composite materials as the intermediate layer, as found in present claim 1. Further, Motsenbocker fails to disclose the use of the sandwich pipe for the transportation of warmed hydrocarbons or other fluids in ultra-deep waters, as in present

claim 5. There is no mention in Motsenbocker of underwater use of the pipe. Therefore, Motsenbocker is not concerned with the issues of mechanical strength and thermal insulation that arise in ultra-deep water applications.

For these reasons, claims 1 and 5 are patentable over Motsenbocker. Claims 3 and 6, depending directly from claim 1, are also patentable. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 3, 5, and 6 be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motsenbocker in view of Obeshaw. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. First of all, Obeshaw being non-analogous art, it is not properly combinable with Motsenbocker to meet the limitations of applicant's claims. And if applicant incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to claim 1 above, claim 1 is patentable over Motsenbocker and Obeshaw. Hence, claim 1 is patentable over any combination of Motsenbocker with Obeshaw. Claims 2 and 7, depending directly or indirectly from claim 1, are therefore also patentable.

For these reasons, claims 2 and 7 are patentable over Motsenbocker and Obeshaw, and any combination of Motsenbocker with Obeshaw. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claims 2 and 7 over Motsenbocker in view of Obeshaw be withdrawn.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motsenbocker in view of Sumner. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to claim 1 above. Based upon these arguments, claim 1 is patentable over Motsenbocker. Claim 4, depending from claim 1, is also patentable over Motsenbocker. Turning to Sumner, Sumner is related to a single pipeline coated with an insulating, waterproof bituminous coating that may include a polymeric filler that extends the temperature range over which bitumen remains dimensionally stable. Sumner does not teach or suggest the use of polypropylene alone as an intermediate insulating material between inner and outer

concentric pipes. Therefore, no combination of Motsenbocker with Sumner results in the present invention as claimed in claim 4.

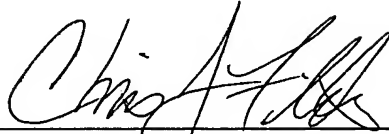
Hence, claim 4 is patentable over Motsenbocker and Sumner, and any combination of Motsenbocker with Sumner. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 4 over Motsenbocker in view of Sumner be withdrawn.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Motsenbocker in view of Obeshaw as applied to claims 2 and 7 above, in further view of Sumner. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to claim 2 above. Based upon those arguments, claim 2 is patentable over the combination of Motsenbocker and Obeshaw. Claim 8, depending from claim 2, is therefore also patentable over Motsenbocker and Obeshaw. Applicant also incorporates by reference the arguments made with respect to Sumner above. Sumner does not teach or suggest the sole use of polypropylene as an insulating material between inner and outer concentric pipes as in present claim 8. Therefore, no combination of Sumner with Motsenbocker and Obeshaw results in the present invention as claimed in claim 8.

For these reasons, claim 8 is patentable over Motsenbocker, Obeshaw, and Sumner, and any combination of Motsenbocker and Obeshaw with Sumner. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103(a) rejection of claim 8 over Motsenbocker in view of Obeshaw in further view of Sumner be withdrawn.

This request for reconsideration is felt to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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